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PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/506,566
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A ~~spot spot~~ footing for securing a precast concrete or timber column to a foundation and/or for extending such a the column, said spot footing comprising a base plate (3) provided with a mounting hole (7), and a cylindrical protective casing consisting of a top plate (2), a side wall part (4, 6) having an opening (5) extending from the top plate to the base plate, and two or more anchor bars (1) secured to the top plate (2) and extending above the top plate, ~~characterized in that the spot footing comprises two or more anchor bars (1) secured to the top plate (2) so that loads are transmitted via anchor bars (1), the top plate (2), the wall part (4, 6) and the base plate (3),~~ and

~~the top plate consists of a thicker force-transmitting part (2) and a thin protective casing part (2"), which is fittable against a column mold~~

wherein the anchor bars are arranged close to the center of the top plate and thus close to a mounting hole line originating from the base plate,

the top plate consists of a thicker force-transmitting part (2) and a thin protective part (2").

the thin protective part is in the area of the side wall opening, is fittable against a column mold, and forms a sealing preventing concrete from flowing into the casing.

the spot footing being configured and adapted to operate as a load transmitting structure, and

the loads are transmitted via the two or more anchor bars (1), the thicker force-transmitting part top plate part (2), the wall part (4, 6) and the base plate (3).

2. (currently amended) A ~~Spot~~ spot footing according to claim 1, characterized in that one or more vertical anchor bars (8) are secured to a back side of the side wall part (4) substantially on an axis of symmetry.

3. (currently amended) A ~~Spot~~ spot footing according to claim 1, characterized in that the side walls (4, 6) of the protective casing are so shaped that, in respect of material strength, the center of gravity of the cross-section of the wall is located substantially at the center of the bolt hole (7).

4. (currently amended) A Spot spot footing according to claim 1, characterized in that the hole (7) of the base plate (7) is elliptical.

5. (currently amended) A Spot spot footing according to claim 1, characterized in that the top plate (2) of the protective casing is provided with a round hole (9) located in alignment with the hole in the base plate (3), allowing the use of prestressing cables.

6. (currently amended) A Spot spot footing according to claim 1, characterized in that the anchor bars are so disposed in the top plate that the anchor bars are located substantially around the hole (7) of the base plate (3).

7. (currently amended) A Spot spot footing according to claim 1, characterized in that the top plate (2) consists of two parts (2', 2'') of different thicknesses, either so that a top plate (2) edge (2'') fitted against the column mold is made of thinner material than part (2'), or so that the thinner part is secured to [[the]] a frontal surface of the thicker part.

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8. (currently amended) A ~~Spot~~ spot footing according to claim 2, characterized in that the one or more vertical anchor bars (8) is/are secured by welding.